

AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows.

1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) ~~The DNA molecule according to claim 45, wherein said lineage I WNV~~ A DNA molecule comprising a DNA sequence encoding a mRNA of a lineage I WNV genome wherein the nucleotide sequence is as set forth in SEQ ID NO.2, said DNA sequence having a 5' and a 3' end, said DNA molecule adapted to report the transcription of said DNA sequence, said DNA molecule comprising:

(a) a deletion in said DNA sequence corresponding to one or more structural genes of said lineage I WNV genome;

(b) a promoter at said 5' end of said DNA sequence;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a reporter at said 3' end of the DNA sequence;

wherein said promoter is operably linked and adapted to control the transcription of said DNA sequence and said nucleotide sequence encoding said reporter.

47. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim 45 46, wherein said reporter is selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, beta-galactosidase, oxidase, peptidase, glycosidase, phosphatase, a fluorescent protein, and an antibiotic resistance marker.

48. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim 45 46, where said reporter is green fluorescent protein.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim 45 46, wherein said one or more structural genes is selected from the group consisting of the capsid, envelope, and membrane genes.

51. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim 45 46, wherein said deletion is in the capsid, envelope, and membrane genes of said lineage I WNV genome.

52-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim 45 46, wherein said promoter is selected from the group consisting of SP6, T7, and T3.

55. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim ~~45~~ 46, wherein said DNA molecule contains a second nucleotide sequence encoding a reporter, wherein transcription of said second nucleotide sequence encoding said second reporter under control of said promoter.

56. (Previously Presented) The DNA molecule according to claim 55, wherein the second reporter is selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, beta-galactosidase, oxidase, peptidase, glycosidase, phosphatase, a fluorescent protein, and an antibiotic resistance marker.

57. (Previously Presented) The DNA molecule according to claims 55, wherein the first and second nucleotide sequences encoding first and second reporters are optionally preceded by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), wherein said IRES facilitates translation of said first and second reporters.

58. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim ~~45~~ 46, wherein the DNA sequence is a lineage I WNV replicon and said reporter is GFP or luciferase.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) ~~The DNA molecule according to claim 59;~~ A DNA molecule comprising a DNA sequence encoding a full-length and fully-infectious mRNA of a lineage I WNV genome, wherein said lineage I WNV nucleotide sequence is as set forth in SEQ ID NO.2 said DNA sequence having a 5' and a 3' end, said DNA molecule adapted to report the transcription of said DNA sequence, said DNA molecule comprising:

(a) a promoter at said 5' end of said DNA sequence;

(b) a first nucleotide sequence encoding a first reporter gene at said 3' end of the DNA sequence;

wherein said promoter is adapted to control the transcription of said DNA sequence and said reporter gene.

61. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim ~~59~~ 60, wherein said reporter is selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, beta-galactosidase, oxidase, peptidase, glycosidase, phosphatase, a fluorescent protein, and an antibiotic resistance marker.

62. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim ~~59~~ 60, where said first reporter is green fluorescent protein.

63-65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim ~~59~~ 60, wherein said promoter is selected from the group consisting of SP6, T7, and T3.
67. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule according to claim ~~59~~ 60, wherein said DNA molecule comprises a second nucleotide sequence encoding a second reporter, wherein the transcription of said second nucleotide sequence encoding the second reporter is under control of said promoter.
68. (Previously Presented) The DNA molecule according to claim 67, wherein the second reporter is selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, beta-galactosidase, oxidase, peptidase, glycosidase, phosphatase, a fluorescent protein, and an antibiotic resistance marker.
69. (Previously Presented) The DNA molecule according to claims 68, wherein the first and second nucleotide sequences encoding said first and second reporters are optionally preceded by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), wherein said IRES facilitates translation of said first and second reporters.
- 70-92. (Canceled)
93. (Currently Amended) A cell line comprising the DNA molecule according to claim 45 46.
94. (Canceled)
95. (Currently Amended) A reverse genetics system for screening and identifying antiviral compounds comprising a lineage I WNV cDNA clone ~~The reverse genetics system of claim 3,~~ wherein the full-length lineage I WNV cDNA clone is according to the nucleotide sequence is as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
96. (Canceled)